



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

EMEGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Alicia Whitehead
Office: 713-495-7906
Pager: 713-607-3930

Press Conference: Thrombolytic Training for HFD Paramedics Nears Completion

The Houston Fire Departments Emergency Medical Service has raised its Standard of Care given to the citizens of Houston and its visitors. In partnership with Hermann Hospital, Houston Fire Department (HFD) Paramedics are nearing completion of their thrombolytic training.

A press conference to discuss this new standard of care will be held on Friday, November 19, 2004 at 1 p.m. in the Houston Firefighters Pension Conference Center, 4225 Interwood North Parkway.

The program known as PATCAR (Pre-Hospital Administration of Thrombolytic Therapy with Urgent Culprit Artery Revascularization) will assist and enable HFD Paramedics in the treatment of patients suffering a heart attack. Patients suffering from a heart attack that meet the inclusion criteria for PATCAR will receive Retavase or one of the other medications associated with the PATCAR program. By administering the clot-busting drug Retavase, the occluded artery(s) will re-open thus returning the flow of oxygenated blood to the heart muscle and prevent further damage.

After the field administration of Retavase, patients are then transported to the receiving hospital where they will receive further diagnostic and medical treatment.

